

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/929,047

Examiner

Thomas H. Stevens

Applicant(s)

SUWADA ET AL.

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 11/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 1/26/06.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-9 were previously examined.
2. Claims 10-12 were added.
3. Claims 1-12 were examined.

Section I: Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While US Patent 5,687,088 teaches a simulation apparatus with an element setting unit which sets a plurality of elements corresponding to wiring patterns in accordance with circuit design information (claims 1,7-10) ; US Patent 6,088,523 teaches a first determination unit which determines the total resistance (claim 1); executing an analysis by using at least one of the elements corresponding to an integrated resistance value as a RLC model (claims 7 and 8); Chang et al. "Symbolic Sensitivity Analysis Using Sspice" teaches first and second thresholds with high-frequencies (claims 1,7-10) but none of these references, taken either alone or in combination, with the prior art of record disclose skin resistance values, including:

(claim 1) a sorting unit which sorts resistance values corresponding to the elements when the total resistance value is equal to or larger than the first threshold value in accordance with a determination result by said first determination unit; a second determination unit which integrates the resistance values starting with a resistance value having the smallest high-frequency element delay and determines whether the

integration result reaches a value immediately; integration is executed and an analysis unit which executes an analysis by using at least one of the elements corresponding to an integrated resistance value as a RLC model and using other elements than the at least one of said elements as high-frequency element models when said second determination unit determines that the integration result reaches the value immediately before a second threshold value whenever the integration is executed

(claims 7-9) sorting resistance values corresponding to the elements by using a high-frequency element delay as a key when it is determined that the total resistance value is equal to or larger than the first threshold value; determining whether the result of integration reaches a value immediately; using other elements than the least one of said elements as high-frequency element models when it is determined that the integration result reaches the value immediately before a second threshold value whenever the integration is executed

(claim 10) a third determination unit determining an integration result, obtained by integrating as many as possible of the sorted resistance values that can be integrated without exceeding a second threshold value.

While none of these references, taken either alone or in combination with the prior art of record disclose skin resistance, including: a sorting unit and a determination

unit, in combination with the remaining elements and features of the claimed invention.

It is for these reasons that the applicants' invention defines over the prior art of record.

Examiner's Amendment

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Richard A. Gollhofer (Registration Number 31,106) on 1/26/06 and Mr. John Young (Registration Number # 57,158) on 2/2/06.

Claim 8, line 2, the phrase "realizes the steps of" has been changed to -- performs a method comprising -- .

Claim 9, lines 1 and 2, the phrase "realizes the steps of" has been changed to -- performs a method comprising -- .

Specification pg. 1, line 12, the phrase "raised" has been changed to -- improved --.

Specification pg. 12, line 17, the element number "401" has been changed to -- 40₁ --.

Specification pg. 12, line 18, the element number "402" has been changed to -- 40₂ --.

Specification pg. 13, line 16, the element number "501" has been changed to -- 50₁ --.

Specification pg. 13, line 17, the element number "502" has been changed to -- 50₂ --.

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Specification pg. 13, line 19, the element number "501" has been changed to -- 50₁ --.

Specification pg. 13, line 19, the element number "502" has been changed to -- 50₂ --.

Specification pg. 25, line 13, the element number "1111 to 1113" has been changed to -
- 111₂ to 111₃ --.

Specification pg. 25, line 17, the element number and phrase "1111 to the substrate
1113" has been changed to -- 111₁ -- to the substrate 111₃ -- .

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Drawings

The changes proposed by applicant to figure 2 of the drawings have been approved by the examiner. In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicants must take these above changes, which were previously agreed to.

Section II: Response to Applicants' Response (2nd Office Action)

103(a)

6. Applicants are thanked for addressing this issue. Rejection is withdrawn.

Correspondence Information

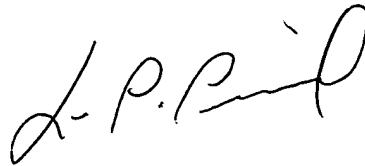
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Tom Stevens whose telephone number is 571-272-3715, Monday-Friday (8:00 am- 4:30 pm EST).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact examiner's supervisor Mr. Leo Picard ((571) 272-3749). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Answers to questions regarding access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) (toll-free (866-217-9197)).

January 26, 2006



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